



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last. 37 CFR 1.97(b).

In accordance with the duty of disclosure, a completed Form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

Consideration of each of the listed references by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

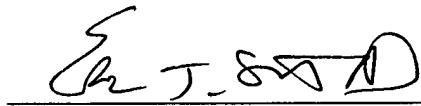
Applicant also respectfully requests that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 indicating such consideration be returned with the next Official Action, as set forth in MPEP 609.

By submitting these references, applicant does not admit that the references are prior art to or material to this application, and reserves the right to establish that any reference is not prior art. Applicant does not represent that the references have been reviewed in detail; there may be details in the references of which applicant is unaware.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees required to
Deposit Account No. 061910. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10 February 2003



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